



Sanctuary Superintendent's Report



Volume 3, Number 7

July 2006

ABOUT THE SANCTUARY



Designated in 1980, the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS or sanctuary) consists of an area off the coast of California of approximately 1,252.5 square nautical miles adjacent to the following islands and offshore rocks: San Miguel Island, Santa Cruz Island, Santa Rosa Island, Anacapa Island, Santa Barbara Island, Richardson Rock, and Castle Rock, extending seaward to a distance of six nautical miles. The islands vary in distance from 12 to 40 nautical miles offshore from Santa Barbara and Ventura counties in southern California.

A fertile combination of warm and cool currents in this area results in a great variety of plants and animals including kelp forests, fish and invertebrates, pinnipeds, cetaceans and sea birds. The sanctuary also has a wealth of maritime heritage resources including Chumash Native American artifacts and over 100 historic shipwrecks. Human uses in the area include commercial and recreational fishing, marine wildlife viewing, boating, diving, kayaking, maritime shipping, nearby offshore oil and gas development, research and monitoring, and numerous educational activities.



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Draft Management Plan Update

On May 15th the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) released the sanctuary's Draft Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DMP/DEIS) for public review and comment. This comprehensive plan is the result of several years of study, planning, and extensive community input. The plan charts a forward-looking course for protecting the rich marine ecosystems of the sanctuary while continuing to allow for compatible human uses. The sanctuary will accept comments on these draft documents through July 21, 2006.

The DMP (Vol. 1) lays out strategies and actions focused on addressing public awareness and understanding, conservation science, water quality, emergency response and enforcement, emerging issues, maritime heritage resources, sanctuary operations and performance evaluation. The DEIS (Vol. 2) analyzes a range of alternatives for modified and new sanctuary regulations. Proposed regulation changes are intended to clarify and strengthen protections for marine habitats, sensitive species, water quality, and submerged cultural and historic resources.

Public Hearings Held June 27 and 29

Approximately 65 people attended the sanctuary's two public hearings, held June 27 and 29 to solicit comments on the DMP/DEIS. Comments were thoughtful and ranged from concerns about and support for proposed motorized personal watercraft regulations, to suggestions on how to improve proposed modifications to the Sanctuary's discharge regulation, to ideas for improving action plans for water quality, emerging issues, and maritime heritage. The sanctuary will respond to all comments in the Final Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement. The final plan and regulations will benefit greatly from the comments submitted by the public, the Advisory Council, and sanctuary partners. The final documents could be completed in late 2006 or early 2007. For more information: <http://channelislands.noaa.gov>.

WINDOW ON THE SANCTUARY



The basking shark is a huge filter feeding shark which grows to be up to about 33 feet (10 m) long. It is the second largest shark after the whale shark.

Photo: Tom Campbell



MARITIME HERITAGE PROGRAM

From June 23 through July 20, 2006, CINMS Maritime Heritage Resource Coordinator Robert Schwemmer has been aboard the NOAA ship Hi'ialakai ("embracing the sea") for a 28-day multidisciplinary voyage to the newly designated Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) Marine National Monument.



Maritime Archaeologists Hans Van Tilburg and Bob Schwemmer review charts of Kure Atoll during transit up the NWHI chain

Photo: Kelly Gleason

The trip plan includes benthic habitat mapping, maritime archaeology, and research interpretation by education and outreach specialists, including National Marine Sanctuary Program West Coast Education Liaison Claire Johnson. All 20 scientists and educators onboard are conducting studies at Kure Atoll, the northernmost atoll of the Hawaiian Islands Archipelago, and also at Pearl and Hermes Atoll.

The maritime heritage team's work during this expedition will contribute greatly to our limited knowledge of the seafaring and history of this remote area. Known wrecks targeted by this team for further study include the gunboat USS Saginaw and the whaleship Parker off Kure Atoll, and sister ships Pearl and Hermes (British whaleships) off Pearl and Hermes Atoll.

Ship logs and other information about the 2006 expedition aboard the Hi'ialakai can be found on the National Marine Sanctuary Program webpage: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/missions/2006nwhi/>



Maritime archaeologist Tane Casserley documents the 19th century whaling shipwreck site at Kure Atoll.

Photo: Brenda Altmeier

RESOURCE PROTECTION ISSUES

NOS Team Assists China with UN-funded Marine Biodiversity Management Project

In 1997-1998, NOAA established a bilateral program with China's State Oceanic Administration in promoting "Integrated Coastal and Ocean Resources Management" under the umbrella U.S.-China Science and Technology Agreement. One goal of the program has been the development of an eight-year, \$12 million project to build human and institutional capacity for coastal resource and biodiversity management at four coastal sites in China's South Sea.

Sean Hastings traveled to China on a fact finding mission with a NOAA delegation between May 7-18, 2006. The delegation's tasks were to support partnerships among interested parties, develop integrated and mutual support strategies, build consensus on feasible roles, and update the state of knowledge among US partners on recent developments and changes to field site conditions over the passed four years. The delegation first met in Beijing with China's State Oceanic Administration (SOA is the equivalent of NOAA in the US) and then traveled to 3 field sites; the Nanji Islands in the Yellow Sea, a

temperate reserve site focused on intertidal and seabird protection; Sanya in the South China Sea, a tropical coral reef reserve and sister site to the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary; and the city of Xiamen and urban water quality improvement site and where the Third Institute of Oceanography is based.

The fact finding delegates included: Dr. Clement Lewsey and Jonathan Justi with NOAA's International Program Office; Anne Walton with NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program; Sean Hastings from NOAA's Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary; Professor Zhou Qiulin, SOA, Third Institute of Oceanography; Jainbin Shi, The Nature Conservancy; Rigor Ma of YSI; and Mr. Chen of ESRI.



The NOAA delegation and ESRI representative in China.

Photo: Sean Hastings



CINMS Sponsors Cooperative Enforcement Training

On April 26 the sanctuary sponsored a Cooperative Enforcement training for enforcement personnel and staff from several federal and state resource management agencies with jurisdiction at the Channel Islands. Representatives of the sanctuary, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, National Park Service, U.S. Coast Guard, and California Department of Fish and Game participated in the training. Through various inter-agency agreements and memoranda, all enforcement personnel participating in the training are authorized to enforce sanctuary regulations. The group discussed current sanctuary regulations, as well as potential upcoming changes to sanctuary regulations proposed in the sanctuary's Draft Management Plan / Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The group also discussed how to improve communications between various enforcement platforms, across all participating agencies.



Staff and enforcement personnel from several federal and state resource management agencies gather to discuss enforcement needs and resources in the Channel Islands.

Photo: Robert Schwemmer

NOAA AND NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY PROGRAM NEWS

President Bush Designates Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument

President George W. Bush designated the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands as a marine national monument on June 15. The newest monument incorporates the former Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve, the Midway National Wildlife Refuge, the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge, and the Battle of Midway National Memorial. This dynamic reef ecosystem is comprised of coral islands, seamounts, banks and shoals that stretch approximately 1,200 nautical miles. At nearly 140,000 square miles, the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument becomes the largest single conservation area in the U.S. and the largest marine protected area in the world. For the first time in its history, NOAA will play a leading role in protecting a national monument. While the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will continue to manage the two existing refuges, the State of Hawaii will manage state-controlled waters, and the National Marine Sanctuary Program will manage all marine areas. The monument's regulations will prohibit all commercial activities that involve the take of resources, including all fishing. The area will be set aside for protection, research and education and native Hawaiian cultural practices.

NMSP Supports National Oceans Week

President Bush proclaimed June 4-10, 2006, as National Oceans Week, demonstrating the Administration's

commitment to ocean stewardship and conservation. The proclamation states, "During National Oceans Week, we recognize the importance of the oceans to our national heritage, economy, and security and reaffirm our commitment to protecting them through wise stewardship and sensible management." In support of the proclamation, in June the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (NMSF) hosted the Conference on Ocean Literacy, and Capitol Hill Oceans Week in Washington, D.C.

Coastal States Organization Delivers MPA System Recommendations to NOAA and DOI

The Coastal States Organization (CSO) and the Marine Protected Area State Advisory Group formally submitted a report, "Recommendations for State and Territorial Participation in the National System of Marine Protected Areas," to NOAA and the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI). The report represents a collaborative effort among state and territorial coastal, fisheries, and cultural resource agency representatives, CSO, the National MPA Center, and other public and private stakeholders. Recommendations in the report will help NOAA and DOI recognize and promote full state involvement in designating and managing the national system of MPAs. The report is available online at www.mpa.gov.

NOAA-sponsored Marine Debris Recycling Program 'Nets' Success

The marine-debris bin for the Honolulu Derelict Net

2006 FROM SHORE TO SEA LECTURE SERIES

July 11 & 12

Jean Caselle

PISCO and Coastal Ocean
Research

August 8 & 9

Gary Davis

Marine Protected Areas in the
National Park System

September 12 & 13

John Johnson

Santa Rosa Island/French
Island Research

October 10 & 11

Russell Galipeau

Channel Islands National
Park: A Status Report

November 14 & 15

Tom McCormick

White Abalone Restoration

December 12 & 13

Dirk Rosen and

Kon Karpov

Remotely Operated Vehicle
Surveys of Marine
Protected Areas

Santa Barbara Lectures:

Tuesdays at Chase Palm Park
Center, 236 E. Cabrillo Blvd.,
Santa Barbara

Ventura Lectures:

Wednesdays at Channel Islands
National Park, Robert J. Lago-
marsino Visitor Center, 1901
Spinnaker Drive, Ventura

More information is posted at:
<http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/focus/calendar.html>

Recycling Program was emptied for the first time on Saturday, May 6, and weighed in at 5,680 pounds. Launched on January 13, 2006, the program is a public-private partnership funded by the NOAA Marine Debris Program and made possible by the generous support of 11 partners including Hawai'i Long-line Association, Schnitzer Steel Hawai'i Corporation, United Fishing Agency, Pacific Ocean Producers, Covanta Energy, Matson Navigation Corporation, NOAA, Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, Department of Transportation-Harbors Division, City and County of Honolulu, and University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program. Derelict fishing nets voluntarily retrieved by Hawaii's long-line fishers and various community groups are collected in the bin located on Pier 38 in Honolulu Harbor. Periodically, Schnitzer Steel Hawai'i Corporation transports the debris to its facility, where it is chopped into smaller pieces suitable for incineration at the City and County of Honolulu's H-Power waste-to-energy facility. Through this process, the debris is recycled to create electricity.

CHANNEL ISLANDS NATURALIST CORPS (CINC) VOLUNTEER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Vessel and Island Based Programs

May and June Whale Watch Vessel Excursions

CINC volunteers offered daily interpretation to passengers on the Condor Express out of Santa Barbara Harbor during the months of May and June, and will continue trips through July. They also provided interpretation three times weekly from Santa Barbara Harbor on the Rachel G during the months of May and June, continuing on into July. Volunteers also participated on two Island Packers whale watch trips in June, and will be present on several of their Ventura Harbor all-day whale watch trips during July.

Additionally, since May 21, specially trained CINC volunteers have been conducting photo-identification research on the Condor Express. This research, which involves photographing blue whales' dorsal fins and humpback whales' flukes, helps Cascadia Research Collective (in Olympia, Washington) identify and monitor cetaceans in the Santa Barbara Channel. John Calambokidis conducted training for CINC volunteers on May 4. The program was expanded in July to include photo I.D. work on the Island Packers' vessels out of Ventura Harbor.

The second blue whale sighting of the summer season was on June 24, along with 30 humpback whales, 30 rissos dolphins, and a minke whale on June 25!

May and June Island Programs

Our island hike volunteers continue to offer interpretive hikes for Island Packers' passengers. In May there were four volunteers on Santa Cruz at Scorpion Anchorage and Prisoners Harbor, six on Anacapa Island, and one on Santa Rosa Island. In June, six were on Santa Cruz, eight on Anacapa, and one on Santa Rosa.



CINC Volunteers on a whale watching excursion educating passengers about the value and ecology they see during their trip. Photo: CINMS



Four CINC members assisted with the Channel Islands National Park's underwater video program, Channel Islands Live! on Anacapa Island, educating the public about the kelp forest, ecology, and marine reserves. One of the volunteers was recently certified as a National Park Service diver and is assisting as one of the divers for the program. The rest volunteered as line tenders and topside naturalists. Thousands of island visitors and school children experienced the program during May and June.

Training

April 18th CINC monthly meeting

Dr. Charles Rennie presented a lecture to the CINC volunteers on the biology of pinnipeds of the Santa Barbara Channel. Rennie is Adjunct Curator of Marine Mammals at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.

May 16th CINC monthly meeting

CINC volunteers toured the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History Ty Warner Sea Center for the May training meeting. One of our own CINC volunteers has been hired as volunteer coordinator for this important new educational center. The group saw how to sample water quality, examined microscopic marine life, and experienced interactive exhibits.

News

Senator Recognizes the Channel Islands Naturalist Corps

On June 1, 2006, Barbara Boxer, United States Senator from California, signed a Certificate of Appreciation for 115 CINC volunteers to recognize their outstanding volunteer service and dedication to promoting coastal stewardship in California.

Volunteer Coordinators Conference Call

On May 30, John Stevenson led the second Volunteer Coordinators Conference Call. During the call, CINMS Volunteer Outreach Coordinator Shauna Bingham of CINMS and Nick Tagliareni of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary presented to sanctuary colleagues the fundamentals of planning and managing a successful volunteer program. The presentations gave participants, many of whom are new to volunteer management, a broader understanding of how investing in volunteerism can provide a several fold return on labor needed for resource monitoring, education and outreach, and enforcement efforts. Bingham and Tagliareni also did a fantastic job at conveying the significant amount of time, effort, and professionalism required to have a successful program.

CINC Research Assistance

The final Xantus's Murrelet research cruise on the *R/V Shearwater* that included CINC volunteers was to Anacapa Island from May 16-19. Few of the rare seabirds were sighted.

Public Outreach Events and Activities

April 20: Island Fox Festival, Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens

The sanctuary joined with the park to highlight resources of the Channel Islands, with a focus on the Channel Islands Fox. The event was at the Los Angeles Zoo, one of the few places where the public can easily see island foxes up close.

April 20: Washington School Ocean Day, Santa Barbara

A Channel Islands Naturalist Corps volunteer represented the sanctuary and led a tide pool walk for K-6 grade students from Washington School at Leadbetter Beach in Santa Barbara. Sanctuary partners from the Ty Warner Sea Center and Ocean Futures Society also participated in the event, which was organized to raise awareness about local marine resources.

Special Recognition

National Marine Sanctuary Foundation Volunteer of the Year Nominee

Warren Glaser is an active and impassioned Channel Islands Naturalist Corps volunteer, making it his mission to improve the quality of the Channel Islands Naturalist Corps volunteer training program. He regularly serves as a mentor for new volunteers and developed a Mentor Training Manual and an evaluation procedure for the training process, thereby creating one of the most comprehensive regional natural history training programs. In addition, Warren has held the non-consumptive recreation seat on the CINMS Advisory Council since 2005.

Warren attended the June 13, 2006, Leadership Awards Dinner, along with CINMS Superintendent Chris Mobley, during Capitol Hill Ocean Week in Washington, D.C. Warren was recognized together with volunteers from each of the 13 national marine sanctuaries. He joined our local congresswoman Lois Capps for dinner and briefed her on the Channel Islands Naturalist Corps, met several former representatives, and had lunch with National Marine Sanctuary Program Director Dan Basta.



April 20: Family Service Agency's 23rd Annual Children's Festival, Santa Barbara

Thousands of enthusiastic children and families came together for the Children's Festival at Alameda Park across from Kids' World in Downtown Santa Barbara for the 23rd Annual Children's Festival. The sanctuary and park partnered on an arts and crafts booth with activities focused on shared resources of the sanctuary and park, including a brown pelican drawing activity.

April 20: Santa Barbara Harbor Operation Clean Sweep

The Santa Barbara Harbor Waterfront department partnered with the CINMS and Surfrider to host "Operation Clean Sweep," a sea floor debris removal effort in Marina 3. City officials hope to make this an annual event and cover all areas of the harbor. CINC volunteers assisted with the harbor clean-up effort. Sanctuary volunteers reported that divers retrieved a variety of items such as crab traps, bicycles, batteries, electrical boat stuff, pipes, cans, and nets. Overall, 4,000 pounds of marine debris were removed from the harbor. Participation in this program gave the sanctuary the opportunity to reach Santa Barbara boaters and citizens on the importance of clean boating practices and protecting ocean water quality by maintaining healthy watersheds. This was also an important opportunity for the sanctuary to strengthen its partnership with Santa Barbara Harbor, which implements several clean boating and water quality programs.

June 4: Santa Barbara Zoo

CINMS participated in the Santa Barbara Zoo's event, Wonders of Water. CINC volunteers represented the sanctuary and park. The zoo event taught several thousand visitors about the amazing world of the ocean and conservation issues through ocean crafts, zookeeper talks and touch tanks. The sanctuary presence was part of a national campaign to raise public awareness about human impacts on water and approximately 250 members of the public visited the sanctuary booth.

July 6: Coastwalk's Talk

On Thursday, July 6, CINC volunteer John Kuizenga presented the Sanctuary Education Team (a working group of the Sanctuary Advisory Council) program, "Discovering CINMS," to the local chapter of Coastwalk. The presentation occurred at the Arroyo Watershed Center at Arroyo Burrow Beach in Santa Barbara. Coastwalk is a grassroots, non-profit organization that inspires, educates and advocates for both coastal protection and access. The

group creates a community of stewards through its unique coastal hiking experiences and its work to complete and sustain the California Coastal Trail. Kuizenga presented an overview of CINMS conservation efforts, as well an overview of opportunities for coastal walks at the park. Coastwalk is eager to learn about the sanctuary and park in order for their volunteers to share the information with the public who attend their day hikes along the coasts of Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

American Cetacean Society (ACS) Conference

Shauna Bingham and Education and Outreach Administrator Tina Reed are on the planning committee for the 10th annual international ACS conference. The conference is entitled "Whales Without Borders" and is scheduled for November 10-12, 2006, in Ventura, California. CINMS is cosponsoring the conference to provide ACS members and the general public with the opportunity to participate in discussions with leading experts in whale conservation biology from around the world.

Ventura Sea Fest

The Ventura Sea Fest is planned for the fall with the assistance of Shauna Bingham and Tina Reed. Sunday, September 24 is the tentative date for the event, to be held in Ventura Harbor.

July Great Annual Fish Count (GAFC)

Join a group of recreational divers and marine biologists conducting a standardized visual fish census off the shores of the Channel Islands. Paradise Dive Club will sponsor an organized dive trip on July 30 and offer training for any new GAFC divers. Please contact the club for more details, including discounted boat trips:

<http://kelp.chem.ucsb.edu/> or visit <http://www.fishcount.org/>. GAFC survey kits can be checked out from the CINMS office, contact Shauna Bingham at (805) 382-6149 ext. 102 or Shauna.Bingham@noaa.gov.

Adopt a Business Program (Brochure Distribution)

CINC volunteers continue to distribute the CINMS main brochure, "Protecting Your Channel Islands," to local marine and tourism-related businesses. Additionally, we have expanded the program to include local state parks and campgrounds.

California Public Ocean Awareness Campaign

The NMSP and the State of California Resources Agency



have recognized a need for a statewide public awareness campaign on ocean issues and have identified the California Ocean Communicators Alliance as the lead resource for helping design and launch the campaign. The goal of the campaign is to raise awareness of ocean issues throughout the State of California. The campaign will be launched during the upcoming California and the World Ocean Conference, September 17-20, 2006.

California Ocean Communicators Alliance

The California Ocean Communicators Alliance represents 100 organizations and almost 200 communications professionals from ocean-related industries, organizations and agencies that

work daily with ocean messages and communicate those messages to millions of Californians.

The goal of the Ocean Communicators Alliance is to increase public ocean awareness in California by working together on message agreement,

cooperation in communicating those messages, and coordinated projects geared towards raising public ocean awareness. The tools for bringing the Alliance together are the California Ocean Communicators Newsletter and the California Ocean Communicators Workshops.



The Ocean Communicators Workshops are supported by the NMSP, the State of California Resources Agency, and other partners. Three workshops have brought the California Ocean Communicators together: The first gathered together Southern California communicators, the second Northern California communicators and the third brought Ocean Communicators together from across the state.

For more information, contact:

Sarah Marquis, West Coast/Pacific Media Coordinator,
NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Program
(949) 222-2212 marquispr@earthlink.net;

OR

Columbine Culberg, Ocean Etiquette Coordinator, NOAA
National Marine Sanctuary Program
(805) 963-3238 (x10) columbine.culberg@noaa.gov

WHAT'S NEW ON THE WEB

www.channelislands.noaa.gov



Visit the web pages listed below to see recently updated sections of the CINMS web site.

What's new with Research and Monitoring? The 'Research underway in the sanctuary' page offers information on the latest research cruises. Check out: http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/res/cinms_res.html

We are hosting an online PDF version of our Boating and Safety brochure along with the Protecting your Channel Islands brochure available for download: http://channelislands.noaa.gov/edu/edu_pro.html

The *R/V Shearwater* 2006 vessel schedule is now available for the months of July, August, September and October: <http://channelislands.noaa.gov/res/calendar/2006.html>

Upcoming Modifications

A new home page design is in the approval stage of development to offer a search feature that will allow users to search for content sanctuary wide.

A MERITO website is in development to support participating teachers and education staff with public education and extended learning programs online. Edits to the West Coast Shipwreck Database, the addition of SAC members' photos and bios online, and a Marine Reserves Educational web section are on deck for July and August 2006.

Your feedback is greatly appreciated. Comments and suggestions about our website can be sent to amy.cale@noaa.gov.



EDUCATION IN, AROUND, AND ABOUT THE SANCTUARY

Digital Library for Earth System Science Workshop

CINMS Education Coordinator Laura Francis participated in a National Science Foundation Digital Library for Earth System Science Data Services Workshop in Tucson, Arizona May 15th-17th, 2006. The Data Services Workshop brought together a wide range of professionals who have a stake in using data in educational settings: earth science data providers, data access and analysis tool developers, scientists, curriculum developers, and educators all worked together to explore and address issues regarding data use. Francis is working with a team to make Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data available to teachers and students through an online database called marinemap.org.

Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) Survey

A team of six divers, including Laura Francis, Claire Johnson, and staff from the CINP and the Santa Monica Bay Keeper participated in a REEF fish and invertebrate count trip to the Channel Islands from May 29-31, 2006. The divers collected fish and invertebrate data inside and outside of marine reserves during 10 dives over the three days at Santa Barbara, Anacapa and Santa Cruz islands. This was the first test of the new REEF invertebrate monitoring program in the Channel Islands region. Fifty-eight REEF data sheets were completed with information on fish and invertebrate species diversity and abundance in the sanctuary and park. Information gathered will be processed by REEF and made available to sanctuary superintendents and other researchers, and includes the data collected from monitoring the effectiveness of marine reserves. For more information, please contact laura.francis@noaa.gov or claire.johnson@noaa.gov.

Mapping Oceans and Coasts GIS Workshop

CINMS Education Coordinators Laura Francis and Julie Bursek are helping to coordinate a Mapping Oceans and Coasts GIS workshop for educators July 12-14th 2006. Ocean Explorers Master Teachers (www.exploreoceans.org) and staff members from the Center for Image Processing in Education and the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary will conduct the workshop. The workshop will be held July 12-14, 2006 at the Ventura County Superintendent of Schools' Office Cowan Conference Center in Camarillo, California. Participants will receive three days of hands-on training in GIS and Global Positioning System (GPS) technology,

a notebook of classroom ready GIS activities, a copy of the Exploring Data with GIS to Experience Sanctuaries (EDGES) materials, GIS software of their choice (one year site license for ArcView 3.X or ArcView 9.X software or a 10-seat license for MyWorld GIS 4.0), and a trip out to Anacapa Island aboard the *R/V Shearwater*. For more information, please visit www.evisual.org

California Bay Watershed Education Training (B-WET) Grant Program Funding Announced

The California B-WET grant program is a competitively based program that supports existing environmental education programs, fosters the growth of new programs, and encourages the development of partnerships among environmental education programs throughout the San Francisco Bay, Monterey Bay, and Santa Barbara Channel watersheds. Funded projects provide meaningful watershed experiences to students and teachers. The program priorities for this opportunity are in line with NOAA's mission to: Protect, Restore, and Manage Use of Coastal and Ocean Resources through Ecosystem-Based Management. Approximately \$1,650,000 may be available in 2007 in award amounts to be determined by the proposals and available funds. About \$700,000 will be made available to the San Francisco Bay watershed area, \$600,000 will be made available to the Monterey Bay watershed area, and about \$350,000 will be made available to the Santa Barbara Channel watershed area. Individual annual awards in the form of grants or cooperative agreements are expected to range from \$10,000 per year to a maximum of \$55,000 per year for no more than three years. Applications are due October 2, 2006. A workshop for applicants is planned in Santa Barbara in early September. For more information, contact seaberry.nachbar@noaa.gov.

California Conference on Ocean Literacy

Julie Bursek represented the Channel sanctuary at the regional California Conference on Ocean Literacy June 7-9, 2006 in Long Beach, hosted by the Aquarium of the Pacific. The California Regional Conference on Ocean Literacy, a two and a half day forum, brought together key participants to discuss the essential principles of ocean literacy and the current challenges and opportunities facing the nation and the west coast for both formal and informal education efforts in educating the public to make informed, responsible decisions about the ocean and its resources. Conference participants made recommendations to a

national steering committee and to the education working group under the U.S. Ocean Action Plan.

Channel Islands Live!

On June 11, 2006 four teachers representing grades 4-7 headed out to East Anacapa Island with staff from Ventura County Office of Education, Santa Barbara Maritime Museum, Island Packers, and the sanctuary and park to observe the Channel Islands Live! underwater interpretive program and begin the process of aligning the program to the JASON XIV From Shore To Sea curriculum. Channel Islands Live! is a project funded by B-WET that will be piloted with four schools in Ventura County to provide students with the opportunity to explore a diverse marine environment through an integrated learning experience that is supported by a standards-based, interactive curriculum; active participation in monitoring and gathering data on the local environment; and live interaction with researchers working in and around the sanctuary and park. After this initial pilot project, the Channel Islands Live! program will be available to schools throughout Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. Channel Islands Live! will also be a featured program of the NMSP's telepresence program and be featured on the OceansLive! web portal.

Channel Islands Film Project

On July 5-7, 2006 John Brooks and sanctuary staff headed out aboard the *R/V Shearwater* to begin collecting high definition film footage for the Channel Islands Film Project. This trip is the first of many to photodocument different habitats and species of interest for a new visitor film that will be developed by Brooks through the National Ocean Service Media Center. CINMS NOAA divers will be providing dive support throughout this project and CINMS education staff will help develop the script and shot lists. The new film will be available to different sanctuary museum and aquarium partners to show in their venues.

Multicultural Education for Resource Issues Threatening Oceans (MERITO)

Hispanic Community Outreach

On May 25th, MERITO staff with assistance from Warren Glaser (CINMS volunteer and Advisory Council member) hosted a bilingual information and activity booth at the annual Oxnard Water Science Exploratorium for twelve-hundred 2nd-4th grade students. In addition, MERITO staff presented the CINMS MERITO puppet show to 400 students as part of the event performances. For the second year in a row the city of Oxnard sponsored the event

for Oxnard public schools, whose students are mainly Hispanic. The Oxnard Water District parking area had over 30 booths each providing information and hands on activities on themes such as water conservation, wastewater treatment, water properties, coastal water resources, and recycling. The MERITO staff and Warren Glaser disseminated information about CINMS resources and programs while demonstrating the connection between our watersheds and ocean using a watershed model. For more information contact: Rocio.Lozano@noaa.gov

MERITO Environmental Cartoon Contest

On May 17-18, CINMS held the MERITO cartoon contest judging. Grand prize winner and 8th grader Elise Pham delivered a cartoon strip with high artistic value and a clear environmental message. The contest provided CINMS with visual materials to communicate the importance of protecting our watersheds, coastal, and ocean waters and the possibility of collaborating with other organizations to produce bilingual outreach materials. Student entries came from schools in the cities of Ventura, Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, and Camarillo. The volunteer judging panel included representatives from Santa Barbara Creeks Division and Committee, Ocean Futures Society, Ojai Valley Youth Foundation, and the Ventura County Superintendent of Schools Office, together with recognized cartoonists and animators Sergio Aragonés, Mike Gordon, and Keith English.



Cartoon drawn by contest winner and 8th grader Elsie Pham.

The MERITO cartoon contest award ceremony was held on June 11th at Santa Barbara Harbor aboard *R/V Shearwater* prior to the boat departure to Santa Cruz Island. The grand prize winner Elise Pham and five runner-up winners for 8th-12th grade levels received the cash prizes. The award ceremony was opened by CINMS Deputy



Superintendent Todd Jacobs, chaired by CINMS MERITO program coordinator Rocio Lozano-Knowlton, and attended by the top 15 teenage cartoonists, their parents, representatives of invited community leaders, artists, and local journalists. The ceremony was honored by Christine Elliott (representing Congresswoman Lois Capps), and by Jillena Eifer (representing Assemblymember Pedro Nava). Elliot acknowledged this sanctuary outreach initiative as innovative and community based. Eifer made remarks on the benefits of the use of humorous characters and visual materials produced by local youth to effectively communicate profound environmental messages. Both community leaders' representatives handed certificates to top winners. MAD Magazine cartoonist Sergio Aragones handed the cash prizes to the top six participants and provided a cartooning workshop at Santa Cruz Island to the top 15 contestants. Julie Bursek provided an outdoor presentation and led an interpretative hike at the island. The cartooning workshop, the interpretative hike, the sightings of a Humpback whale, common dolphins, and a bald eagle at Santa Cruz Island were some of the trip highlights. For more information contact Rocio.Lozano@noaa.gov.

MERITO Educators Workshop

MERITO staff are in the process of bringing the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Watershed Academy program to the CINMS. Curriculum developer Andrea Moe (Island Packers Education Program coordinator and CINMS Advisory Council member) adapted 28 lesson plans and developed four new lessons about Channel Islands ecosystems and resources. The Watershed Academy will provide 5th-8th grade underserved students with the opportunity to experience meaningful watershed and ocean science activities through the use of the state standards aligned curriculum, along with support from local scientists and MERITO staff throughout the academic year. MERITO staff will provide teachers and after-school program leaders who participate in the Pilot MERITO Educators Workshop with the training, resources, and support to integrate the adapted curriculum into their programs. The MERITO Educators Workshop is scheduled for September 8-9, 2006. For more information contact Rocio.Lozano@noaa.gov



RESEARCH IN THE SANCTUARY

Xantus's Murrelets

Seabird biologists Darrell Whitworth and Josh Koepke of the California Institute of Environmental Studies began the seventh year of Xantus's Murrelet nest monitoring on Anacapa Island in April 2006 and recently took four more monitoring trips in May and June on *R/V Shearwater*. Anacapa is one of only 12 islands where Xantus's Murrelets, a California state threatened species, are known to breed. They nest in caves and crevices, creating challenging conditions for nest monitoring. Researchers search the caves to monitor nests and eggs and survey for adult birds in nighttime social aggregations. Nesting has been much slower to start in 2006, but beginning in June, Whitworth and Koepke began to document an increase in this year's nesting activity.



Adult Xantus's Murrelet captured off Anacapa Island in nighttime surveys.

Photo: John Kuizenga

Kelp Forest Monitoring

In collaboration with California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), CINMS, National Marine Fisheries Service, and others, CINP biologist David Kushner led a team of scientists in the 25th year of kelp forest monitoring. Divers on SCUBA and surface-supplied-air used standardized techniques to count species along transects and in quadrats, as well as using other survey techniques. Population dynamics of over 68 taxa, or categories, of algae, fish, and invertebrates are studied at each site. This long-term data set is important for documenting changes over time in the sanctuary and will be a tool in helping to evaluate effectiveness of marine reserves. CINP researchers took two five-day cruises on *R/V Shearwater* in May and June 2006.

Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF)

For three days each in May and June, REEF volunteers surveyed fish communities in the sanctuary. REEF is an international marine



Anemone surveyed during the May REEF survey.

Photo: Claire Johnson

conservation non-profit organization supporting hands-on grassroots activities, one of which is the Fish Survey Project. Volunteer divers visit sites within the sanctuary that are inside and outside state marine protected areas. Each diver records all fish that can be positively identified during their dive. To date, over 1,444 REEF surveys have been conducted in CINMS, documenting 122 species of fish. New this year are surveys for invertebrates and algae.

White Abalone Restoration and Education

Researchers and divers from CINP, CDFG, and CINMS recently joined students and teachers from Oxnard College on a combined research and education trip to the kelp forests of Anacapa Island on board the research vessel *R/V Shearwater*. Researchers used SCUBA to sample baby abalone recruitment trackers (BARTs) and were linked to the boat with a live video link and two-way communication. Students from Tom McCormick's Marine Sampling Techniques and Field Studies class observed the divers sampling the abalone recruitment devices on high definition televisions on board the vessel. Once the divers were on the surface, the students measured and recorded the species that had been collected from the BARTs. In addition to participating in the white abalone research project, the class also took water and plankton samples, recorded weather measurements and marine mammal sightings, and interviewed some of the scientists on board about their jobs.

Ashy Storm-petrel Monitoring

Seabird biologists Bill McIver and Harry Carter have been monitoring Ashy-Storm Petrels at Santa Cruz Island since 1995. These small birds are vulnerable to human disturbance and predation and are thought to number approximately 10,000 worldwide, with nearly the entire population in the waters off California. Researchers search for nests at Santa Cruz Island in caves, crevices and on an offshore rock. During the first monitoring trip of 2006 (June 14-16) on *R/V Shearwater*, McIver and Carter observed the start of the breeding season and documented established nests, birds brooding eggs, and even a few chicks that had already hatched.

R/V SHEARWATER TRIPS

May, June, and July, 2006

Monterey Bay – Working with staff from Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary to facilitate camera sled tows.

Seabird Monitoring – Ongoing monitoring of Xantus's Murrelet and Ashy Storm-petrel populations and nesting efforts.

UCSB Intern Training – Educating UCSB undergraduate students about the research and resource value of the sanctuary and park.

Plumes and Blooms – Ongoing water quality monitoring in the Santa Barbara Channel.

White Abalone Restoration – Fostering undergraduate participation in oceanographic research.

Kelp Forest Monitoring – Divers collect data on 70 species/groups of fish, invertebrates, and algae.

Non-Consumptive Use Survey – Surveys of non-consumptive user and recreational boater patterns.

REEF Project – Surveying fish communities in the sanctuary.

Inflatable Training – Up to date training for inflatable operations specific to the sanctuary

MERITO Awards Cruise – Ceremony for winners of the MERITO cartoon contest.

Marine Reserves Monitoring – Monitoring fish and urchin populations inside and outside of the sanctuary Marine Protected Areas.

Ocean Explorers – Learning about and practicing ocean monitoring techniques and GIS projects.

Ty Warner Sea Center – A trip to introduce Sea Center staff and volunteers to the sanctuary and park with a focus on education, research, and resource protection.

PISCO – Fish surveys on kelp reefs in the sanctuary.

National Data Buoy Center Support – Facilitating maintenance for 3 buoys near Point Conception.

A BIRDSEYE VIEW: WATCHING THE SANCTUARY FROM ABOVE



During the current reporting period Lt. Julie Helmers, CINMS Pilot, flew the sanctuary's Sea Wolf aircraft a total of 22.7 hours. Helmers conducted flights around all five islands in the park and sanctuary. Flights supported the Sanctuary Aerial Monitoring and Spatial Analysis Program (SAMSAP), marine reserve monitoring and enforcement, and socioeconomic studies. Sightings highlights included one flight during which sanctuary staff observed 150 common dolphin and eight unidentified (possibly Minke) whales, and a second flight during which staff observed 250 common dolphin and one unidentified (possibly Blue) whale. Sanctuary staff also observed an oil barge in tow between Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa islands.



The Ernest F. Hollings Scholarship Program was established in honor of Senator Hollings, with the purpose of educating and training undergraduates in fields such as research, technology, and public service. NOAA chose 110 undergraduates to participate in this year's program. Each student is awarded a monthly stipend for their current academic school year and a summer internship with a NOAA approved office. This year four recipients are working with CINMS: Anna Cajiga, Desareé Williams, Erin Gaines and Anja Pfingsten. Below is information on each intern:

Anna

From Rochester, New York, Anna Cajiga is currently a senior at Michigan State University. She is majoring in Elementary Education with a focus in Language Arts and a specialization in Health Promotion and Museum Studies. Cajiga plans to teach upper elementary or middle school in an inner-city environment, and aspires to one day start her own nonprofit organization that gives urban children opportunities to experience nature outside the confines of their city. She works closely with Claire Johnson, Laura Francis, and Julie Bursek on various education and outreach projects and is extremely excited to see the ways that educators integrate ocean studies into both formal and informal education settings. Through her internship, Cajiga hopes to gain a better understanding of essential principles of ocean literacy, and how to relate complicated scientific knowledge to the general public in an understandable and exciting way.

Anja

Anja Pfingsten will begin her senior year at Texas A&M University at Galveston this fall. She plans to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Maritime Studies and a minor in Maritime Administration. Maritime Studies is a program that focuses on ocean-related social sciences, while Maritime Administration focuses on the business aspects of shipping and port operations. As an intern this summer Pfingsten assists Advisory Council and Management Plan Coordinator Michael Murray and Management Plan Specialist Sarah MacWilliams with the public comment period for the Draft Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. She hopes to gain both an appreciation for and a better understanding of what the NMSP policy process entails, and how decisions made every day affect the activities of people who make the sanctuary a part of their lives in the present and in the future. Pfingsten also redesigned and compiled this issue of the Superintendent's Report.

Erin

Erin Gaines, a Santa Barbara raised water-baby, is a senior at Stanford University. She is currently studying Environmental Science and Policy with a focus on Environmental Economics. While in Panama, Gaines spent part of her junior year studying conservation and development and performed an independent research project on a lobster fishery. In Washington, D.C. she interned for the Oceans Program at Environmental Defense, getting a taste of national policy work. Now working closer to home, Gaines is excited to have the opportunity to work on a study of private boaters in the sanctuary. She looks forward to learning more about social science survey methods as well as the beautiful Channel Islands. Her summer goal is to finally go scuba diving in the sanctuary!

Desaree

Originally from San Diego, California, Desareé Williams is a senior at Dominican University of California, located in Marin County. While earning her Bachelor of Science in Biology with an emphasis in Ecology she is also earning two minors in Environmental Studies and Chemistry. Working with her university research department and the National Park Service, Williams is actively conducting research on algal populations, Sudden Oak Death, and the spread of invasive plants via horse manure. She plans to attend graduate school for Zoology and Field Biology, eventually earning her PhD. Williams hopes this internship will provide her with more knowledge and research experience as she works with Research Assistant Dani Lipski and Scientific Advisor Natalie Senyk. She also plans to gain a better understanding of public policy and management with her work alongside Sarah MacWilliams and Michael Murray.



From left to right, Hollings Scholars Anja Pfingsten, Erin Gaines, Anna Cajiga, and Desareé Williams stop for a picture at Inspiration Point on Anacapa Island. Photo: Katie Brown



JULY

July 6, 2006
Coastwalk Talk
“Discovering the CINMS”

July 11 & 12, 2006
From Shore to Sea Lecture
Jenn Casselle
“PISCO and Coastal Ocean Research”

July 12-14, 2006
Mapping Oceans and Coasts
Geographic Information Systems
Workshop

July 21, 2006
End of Public Comment Period
for CINMS Draft Management
Plan/Draft EIS

July 21, 2006
Sanctuary Advisory Council
Meeting (Ventura)
Robert J. Lagomarsino Visitors
Auditorium
Channel Islands National Park
Headquarters
1901 Spinnaker Drive
Ventura Harbor, CA

AUGUST

August 3-14, 2006
Ventura County Fair

August 8 & 9, 2006
From Shore to Sea Lecture
Gary Davis
“Marine Protected Areas in the
National Park System”

August 24-27, 2006
Chumash Maritime Association
Tomol (plank canoe)
Channel Crossing



Photo: Bob Schwemmer

SEPTEMBER

September 8 & 9, 2006
MERITO Educators Workshop

September 12 & 13
John Johnson
“Santa Rosa Island/French
Island Research”

September 17-20, 2006
California and the World Ocean
2006 Conference

September 20 & 27, 2006
Jean-Michel Cousteau:
Ocean Adventures
“America’s Underwater
Treasures”
Airs at 8 pm on PBS

September 22, 2006
Sanctuary Advisory Council
Meeting (Santa Barbara)
Casa Las Palmas
323 E. Cabrillo Blvd.
Santa Barbara, CA

September 24, 2006
Tentative date for
Ventura Sea Fest

SUMMER IN THE SANCTUARY

*During July, be sure you
scan the sanctuary for:*

*California Sea Lions
Blue Whales
Fin Whales
Sei Whales
Humpback Whales
Pinkfooted Shearwaters
Ashy Storm-petrels
Endangered Least Terns
Xantus’s Murrelets*

*August is a great time to
see these creatures in the
sanctuary:*

*Blue Whales
Fin Whales
Sei Whales
Humpback Whales
Pinkfooted Shearwaters
Ashy Storm-petrels
Endangered Least Terns
Red-Necked Phalaropes*

*This September keep your
eyes open for these friends
of the sanctuary:*

*Blue Whales
Fin Whales
Sei Whales
Pinkfooted Shearwaters
Ashy Storm-petrels
Black Storm-petrels
Red-Necked Phalaropes*



CINMS Staff

Christopher Mobley – Sanctuary Manager

Todd Jacobs – Assistant Manager

Shauna Bingham – Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator

Julie Bursek – Education Coordinator, Oxnard Office

Amy Cale – Web Developer

Laura Francis – Education Coordinator, Santa Barbara Office

Clare Fritzsche – CINC Volunteer Administrative Assistant

Sean Hastings – Resource Protection Coordinator

LT Julie V. Helmers – Executive Officer

Lorri Herr – Program Support Specialist

Jacklyn Kelly – Sanctuary Advisory Council and Event Specialist

Rochelle King – Administration Specialist

Charles Lara – Deckhand

Dani Lipski – Research Assistant

Rocio Lozano de Knowlton – MERITO Community Liaison

Sarah MacWilliams – Management Plan Specialist

Michael Murray – Advisory Council and Management Plan Coordinator

Luman Moody – Vessel Captain

LTJG Kate Peet – Operations Officer

Tina Reed – Education and Outreach Administrator

Robert Schwemmer – Regional Maritime Heritage Coordinator

Natalie Senyk – Scientific Advisor

Terrence Shinn – Vessel Captain

Ben Waltenberger – Physical Scientist

Rebecca Young – Database Coordinator

CINMS Interns

Daryl Austin – Education Intern

Anna Cajiga – Education Intern

Allison Chan – Resource Protection Intern

Anja Pfingsten – Management Plan Intern

Desaree Williams – Management Plan Intern

NMSP West Coast Staff

Columbine Culberg – Ocean Etiquette Program Manager/Liaison to Aquarium of the Pacific

Claire Johnson – West Coast Education Liaison

Sarah Marquis – West Coast Media Coordinator

Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary Foundation Staff

Donna Schroeder – Acting Executive Director

The Sanctuary Superintendent's Report is produced bi-monthly by the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary in conjunction with Sanctuary Advisory Council meetings. To learn more about the sanctuary please visit our web site at:

<http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/>.

To learn more about the Sanctuary Advisory Council please visit:

<http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/main.html>.

The National Marine Sanctuary Program

The Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary is one of 13 marine sanctuaries in the National Marine Sanctuary Program. This program was established under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act of 1972 which authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to designate as national marine sanctuaries areas of the marine environment or Great Lakes with special national significance due to their conservation, recreational, ecological, historical, scientific, cultural, archeological, educational, or aesthetic qualities. Visit the NMSP web site at:

<http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/>

Channel Islands National Park

To learn about Channel Islands National Park visit their web site at:

<http://www.nps.gov/chis/homepage.htm>.

Get Involved and Stay Informed!

To learn how to get involved in the sanctuary visit:

<http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/focus/involved.html>

Sign up for the CINMS listserv to receive email notices about upcoming sanctuary events, and public meetings of the Sanctuary Advisory Council and its working groups:

<http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/focus/list.htm>

Contact Information

CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Santa Barbara Office

Oxnard Office

Santa Barbara Harbor
113 Harbor Way, Suite 150

Channel Islands Harbor
3600 S. Harbor Blvd., Suite 112

Santa Barbara, California 93109

Oxnard, California 93035

Phone: (805) 966-7107

Phone: (805) 382-6149

Fax: (805) 568-1582

Fax: (805) 382-9791